

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.	10/663,598	Confirmation No.: 3266
Applicant:	Gerald Winton Lankford	
Filed:	September 16, 2003	
Group Art Unit:	2617	
Examiner:	Kwasi Karikari	
Title:	Apparatus, And Associated Method, For Facilitating Determination of Mobile Roaming Relationship	
Docket No.:	1578.109	
Customer No.:	44208	

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT OF APPELLANT'S BRIEF ON APPEAL

Dear Sir:

In response to a Notification of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated November 20, 2007, please amend the above-identified application in accordance with the replacement sections noted below as follows:

Summary of Claimed Subject Matter, pages 2-4;

Evidence Appendix, page B1;

Related Proceedings Appendix, page C1.

SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

Claim 1 of the present invention is directed to an apparatus (page 11, lines 18-22; page 13, lines 10-11; Fig. 1, reference 42) configured for forming a roaming network list (page 11, lines 23-24; page 12, lines 1-3; page 13, lines 10-15; Figs. 1-3, reference 46) that identifies roaming arrangements between network operators of a cellular, or other mobile, communication system (page 9, lines 3-25; Fig. 1, reference 10) in which different networks are operated by different network operators (page 9, line 31 – page 10, line 4; page 13, lines 5-9; Fig. 1), and are coupled together by way of a respective gateway (page 10, line 22-25; Fig. 1, reference 26) to a packet data network (page 10, line 22-25; Fig. 1, reference 28) which is coupled to the apparatus (page 11, lines 18-22; page 13, lines 10-11; Fig. 1, reference 42).

More specifically, the roaming network list (page 11, lines 23-24; page 12, lines 1-3; page 13, lines 10-15; Figs. 1-3, reference 46) is dynamically created through detection, at a detector (page 11, lines 23-33; Figs. 1 and 2, reference 48), of positional information of mobile nodes (page 5, lines 12-24; page 9, lines 3-11; page 9, line 33 – page 10, line 3; page 10, line 29 – page 11, line 7; Figs. 1 and 2, reference 12) that operate pursuant to communications with different ones of the networks (page 9, lines 31 – page 10, line 25; Figs. 1 and 2, references 16, 18) of the communication system (page 9, lines 3-25; Fig. 1, reference 10).

An associator (page 11, line 27 – page 12, line 8; Figs. 1 and 2, reference 52) associates mobile nodes (page 9, lines 3-25, Fig. 1, reference 12), by their home networks (page 9, lines 31 – page 10, line 25; Figs. 1 and 2, reference 16), with networks (page 9, lines 31 – page 10, line 25; Figs. 1 and 2, reference 18) with which the mobile nodes (page 5, lines 12-24; page 9, lines 3-11; page 9, line 33 – page 10, line 3; page 10, line 29 – page 11, line 7; Figs. 1 and 2, reference 12) are capable of communicating. Associations made by the associator (page 11, line 27 – page 12, line 8; Figs. 1 and 2, reference 52) are used to form the roaming network list (page 11, lines

23-24; page 12, lines 1-3; page 13, lines 10-15; Figs. 1-3, reference 46), which is stored in a storage element (page 11, line 23 – page 12, line 6; Fig. 1, reference 44). The roaming relationship associations are represented in the roaming network list (page 11, lines 23-24; page 12, lines 1-3; page 13, lines 10-15; Figs. 1-3, reference 46) by entries, individual ones of which, when aged beyond a selected age, are, without being deleted, given less weight than other entries (page 12, lines 5-6), that is, given less reliance as to the present state of the roaming capabilities identified by the entry (page 8, lines 29-32). Subsequent access to the list (page 11, lines 23-24; page 12, lines 1-3; page 13, lines 10-15; Figs. 1-3, reference 46) permits the roaming arrangements, dynamically determined, to be ascertained.

Claim 13 of the present invention is directed to a method (page 13, line 16 – page 14, line 4; Fig. 4, reference 80) for forming a roaming network list that identifies roaming arrangements between network operators of a cellular, or other mobile, communication system in which different networks are operated by different network operators, and are coupled together by way of a respective gateway to a packet data network which is coupled to the apparatus.

More specifically, values of positional information associated with a mobile node are detected (page 13, lines 20-21; Fig. 4, reference 82). The values of the positional information are then associated with a network portion of the communication system, and it is determined whether the network portion is a roaming network with which roaming relationships have been established (page 13, lines 22-27; Fig. 4, reference 84). A roaming network table is then formed that indicates with which of the network portions that the mobile node is capable of communicating (page 13, lines 28-30; Fig. 4, reference 86), individual entries of which, when aged beyond a selected age, are, without being deleted, given less weight than other entries (page 12, lines 5-6), that is, given less reliance as to the present state of the roaming capabilities identified by the entry (page 8, lines 29-32). The roaming network table is then accessed to determine

roaming capabilities of selected coverage areas of selected network portions (page 13, lines 31-33; Fig. 4, reference 88).

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place this Appeal Brief in condition for review. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Board of Appeals reverse the decision of the Examiner in which all of the pending claims of the Application were rejected, so that the application may be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 15, 2007

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EVIDENCE APPENDIX

None

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RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

None